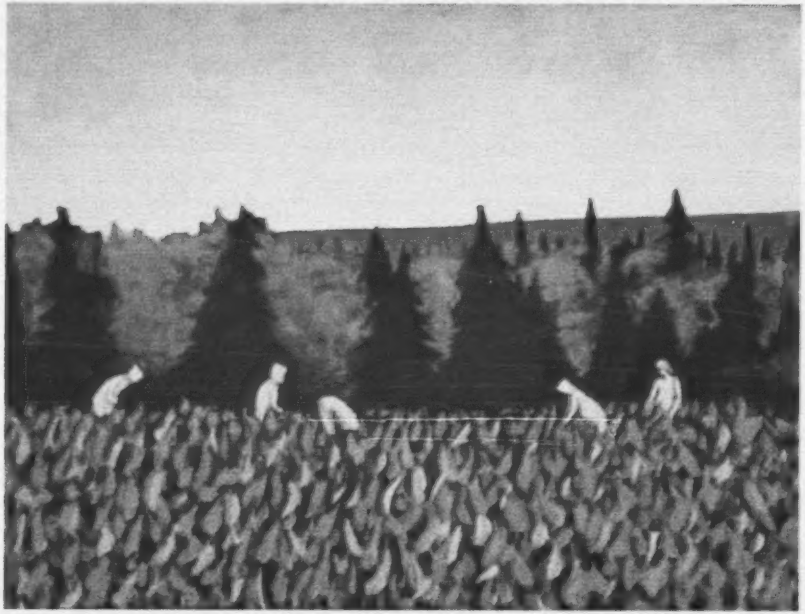
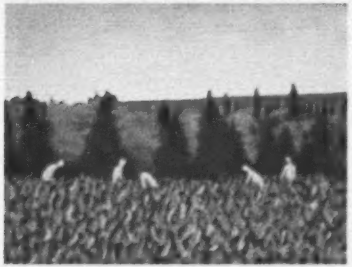
Annual Report 2013–2014



Activities of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

April 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014

About the Cover Image



Mexicans Harvesting Cabbage in Vernon Bridge
by Norah Pendergast
"This scene occurred in late October 2013, across the street from the school where I teach. I had noticed the work crew all week and was inspired by their labour and the theme of migrant workers."

Norah Pendergast is a self-taught painter who works in acrylics and is inspired by the human condition, irony, and the communicative potential of composition and colour. She has a BA in history, English literature, and French from UPEI and a BEd from Memorial University. She currently works as a schoolteacher and lives in Charlottetown with her young family.

Prince Edward Island
CANADA

Tel: 902 368 4510
http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw
info@peistatusofwomen.ca

Advisory Council on the Status of Women

PO Box 2000
Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island
Canada C1A 7N8

September 2014

Hon. Valerie Docherty
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Docherty:

I am pleased to present you with the 2013–2014 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements and a summary of the Advisory Council's activities, publications, projects, and collaborations with government and the community from April 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014.

Sincerely,

Diane Kays

Diane Kays, Chairperson

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Chairperson's Message

With the conclusion of our fiscal year 2013–2014, I am taking this opportunity to reflect on this past year and highlight some events that are dealt with in more detail throughout the report.

As in previous years, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women continued to work on the following areas, on its own and in partnership with community groups: issues of violence against women and children, mental health and addictions, poverty and economic issues and housing insecurity, murdered and missing Aboriginal women across Canada, gender equality and equity, reproductive justice, and numerous other concerns.

As you read through the annual report, it will soon become apparent that this year was one of concentrated community consultations, submissions and presentations, and numerous media opportunities (print, digital radio, TV) to advance our views and analysis and to advocate on behalf of women, their families, and vulnerable Islanders. The Advisory Council, in particular our staff, were extremely busy this past year. Also, it became obvious that in order to adequately deal with some of the community issues it was vital, more than ever, to collaborate and consult with numerous community partners.

On June 26, 2013, the ACSW launched the Equality Report Card, using the 2011 report as its benchmark. Government was assigned an overall grade of "C " to indicate that the provincial government had taken some important and concrete steps to meet the needs of women and vulnerable citizens, and that much more needs to be done. The ACSW appreciates the extensive input from government staff, community groups, former ACSW Chairpersons, and present Council

members in determining the grade. The next Equality Report Card will be completed in 2015. We continue to believe that the Report Card is a valuable assessment and accountability vehicle, of which we are very proud.

During the past year the ACSW published a new and updated edition of the booklet *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship*, which continues to be in great demand. The ACSW was fortunate to have our Vice-Chair Kelly Robinson update the information. We are appreciative of her time and skills.

The Advisory Council continues its work with the National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils. In September 2013, I attended the annual meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon. The National Coalition continues to write letters to the federal government on various issues as well as open letters to the general public. We discussed numerous mutual concerns but two that were highlighted were: 1) the 1,200+ murdered and missing Aboriginal women across Canada and 2) PEI's lack of local abortion services, limiting women's access to health care. The next National Coalition meeting will be held in late September 2014 on PEI, which will allow members the opportunity to attend *A Bold Vision* conference. We look forward to hosting colleagues from across the country in 2014.

The Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence continues to be a priority for the ACSW and the theme this past year was "ASK: Sex without consent is a crime." The Campaign was launched on November 25th and the December 6th Montreal Massacre Memorial Service was held again at the Confederation Centre, with record numbers in attendance. The ACSW also joined others to participate in Family Violence Prevention Week events in February. We are committed to continuing the necessary hard

work to address violence against women and children, and to emphasize prevention.

Due to PEI 2014 funding support, the Advisory Council was able to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th with three stellar events (elaborated upon later). The theme for IWD 2014 internationally was "Inspiring Change," and it is imperative that we all continue to inspire hope and change for women on PEI, Canada, and internationally. We have come a long way in Canada, but we are not there yet.

The ACSW continues to meet regularly with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, the Hon. Valerie Docherty. The Chair, Executive Director, and Program Coordinator and the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (IWS) meet with the Minister, and we update them on our work, what we are hearing from the community, and our concerns and goals for the future. We are so appreciative of the Minister and the IWS's receptiveness, feedback, and ongoing support. At the last National Coalition Meeting it was noted by many how fortunate we are to have such access to our Minister, and we thoroughly agree.

I want to thank our dedicated and passionate staff: Jane Ledwell, Michelle Jay, and Becky Tramley, and sincerely appreciate the hard work of all of our Council members. The ACSW is fortunate to have such an amazing and dynamic group of women, two teams, working on behalf of PEI women and their families.

In conclusion: With each passing year we are reminded of the necessity to look at the bigger picture as well as working on the specific issues concerning Islanders. Further, it's imperative that we continue to be mindful of the complex inter-relatedness of issues when we address concerns relating to mental health and addictions, reproductive justice, economic and

housing security, violence against women and children, education, justice, and gender equality. As a small province, PEI has the unique opportunity to analyze programs, make changes, test out different funding mechanisms, and arrive at solutions that may take larger jurisdictions longer to attain.

It is my hope and the hope of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women that we dare to be innovative, that we dare to be bold, and that we never be satisfied with the status quo. Island women and their families (all Islanders) deserve no less.

Diane Kays, Chairperson

Chairperson Diane Kays presents the 2013 Equality Report Card at Cornwall Town Hall in June 2013.

About the Advisory Council

Mandate & Mission

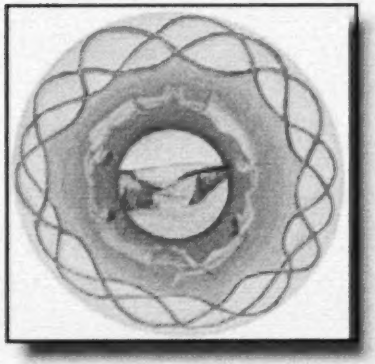
The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEIACSW) is an arm's-length government-appointed Council.

Nine Council members are selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality and who represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity.

The Council believes that women's equality is the foundation for equality for all people. Women's inequality continues to influence discriminatory attitudes and actions that affect our society and culture, our politics and laws, and our economies.

Council believes that women's independent social and economic security is key to equality and to freedom from physical, emotional, and sexual violence.

The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act. This Act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.



With a commitment to feminist principles and process, the PEIACSW:

- serves as an advisor to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women regarding issues facing Island women and girls and their families;
- serves as a liaison between the community and the provincial government on matters related to equality;
- works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life;
- promotes social justice for vulnerable populations, including senior women, Aboriginal women, low-income women, women of colour, Francophone women, women with disabilities, women who identify as LGBTQ, and others;
- conducts research and offers recommendations to government, collaborators and partners to promote equality;
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women and their families;
- works in collaboration with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils.

Artwork: "Seeds" by Council member Mari Basiletti.

This work was commissioned by and hangs in the waiting room of the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre.

Council Meetings & Strategic Planning

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is mandated to meet at least four times per year. At meetings, Council members share experiences, knowledge, and understanding of issues. They discuss and decide on policy priorities and recommendations to government. They meet with government officials or community organizations or both. They invite resource people who offer opportunities for learning and analysis.

Council's strategic planning processes are ongoing. The goal of Council planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on Council's priorities and that Council looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process, with expert facilitation whenever this is possible.

Advisory Council Meetings, 2013–2014:

- **128th meeting:** May 8, 2013, Cornwall, PEI
- **129th meeting:** June 26, 2013, Cornwall, PEI
- **130th meeting:** October 2, 2013, Summerside, PEI
- **131st meeting:** December 6, 2013, Charlottetown, PEI
- **132nd meeting:** January 29, 2014, Charlottetown, PEI
- **133rd meeting:** March 31, 2014, Charlottetown, PEI

Council Meeting Highlights, 2013–2014:

- *May 8, 2013, Cornwall, PEI – Report Card Grade-Setting Workshop*
  Having already reviewed information from government and research and completed a survey, Council members came together to reach consensus on assessments and grades for the 2013 Equality Report Card. They selected key information for supporting analysis.
- *June 26, 2013, Cornwall, PEI – Equality Report Card Launch*
  Council welcomed representatives from government, community organizations, media, and the general public to a news conference to launch the 2013 Equality Report Card.
- *October 2, 2013, Summerside, PEI – Prescription Drug Addiction*
  Council members welcomed presentations by community experts on the crisis in prescription drug addictions in PEI and prepared for a brief to government on this issue. Council also discussed issues raised at the National Coalition of Advisory Councils meeting and made plans together for the 2013 Purple Ribbon Campaign.
- *December 6, 2013, Charlottetown, PEI – Montreal Massacre Memorial*
  Council participated actively in Charlottetown's memorial service for victims of the December 6, 1989, Montreal Massacre.
- *January 29, 2014, Charlottetown, PEI – Purple Ribbon Campaign Discussion*
  Council members gathered a week later than originally planned due to a storm. Scheduled guests and presenters were not available, so the Council spent additional time on interest-based planning for the Purple Ribbon Campaign. This campaign continues to be a much-valued part of Council's work.

- *March 31, 2014 Charlottetown, PEI – International Women's Day & Family Violence Prevention*
  Council members spent time discussing the very successful International Women's Day (March 8) activities organized with the support of the PEI 2014 Fund. Council members shared their experiences of Family Violence Prevention Week activities, in addition to the events that staff reported participating in during the week.

Council Strategic Planning, 2013–2014

- Council staff followed up on the previous year's training on operational planning and priority setting with facilitator Kirstin Lund.
- Council continued to focus its activities and publications on themes set in 2012–2013 strategic planning, which placed priority on health (especially mental health and addictions), justice, violence prevention, and poverty.
- Interest-exploring related to the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence showed excellent continuity in what Council members value about the campaign. Helpful ideas and directions for the 2014–2015 campaign emerged from the planning session.
- Council members continued to review and update policy handbooks for staff and Council.

Advisory Council Members

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women members are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Women self-nominate for inclusion through the "Participate PEI" program.

Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as women of colour and young, lesbian, Aboriginal, Francophone, disabled, low-income, and senior women. Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms and may serve a maximum total of five years.

In the 2013–2014 fiscal year. Diane Kays, Kelly Robinson, Louise MacLeod, and Eileen Brown were all reappointed for two-year terms.

Diane Kays, Charlottetown — Chairperson

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2014

Chairperson's term: July 29, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Diane Kays received her BA from Saint Dunstan's University (1969) and her MSW from Dalhousie University's School of Social Work (1971). Diane's career focused on "Issues of Violence Against Women and Children" and "Trauma Related to Childhood Abuse." Along with being a therapist/counsellor, Diane also taught Social Work students, served on numerous community committees, developed and published programs related to violence against women, and has been an activist for issues related to women and their families. Diane moved back to PEI from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 2002 and continued to practice until her retirement in 2009. Diane lives in Charlottetown.

Kelly Robinson, Stratford — Vice-Chairperson

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Vice-Chairperson's term: January 22, 2013, to March 1, 2016

Kelly Robinson is Program Coordinator at Community Legal Information Association (CLIA), and serves as Provincial Advisor to PEI People First. Her working and volunteer career has focused on social justice issues with a focus on access to justice, women, persons with intellectual disabilities, sexual abuse survivors, and family violence prevention / intervention. She has a Masters degree in Theory, Culture and Politics from Trent University and a diploma in Conflict Resolution Studies from UPEI. She lives in Stratford with her menagerie of two cats, a conure parrot, and two budgies.

Marcia Enman, Wellington — Treasurer

Council term: June 17, 2009, to June 13, 2014

Marcia Enman is the general manager and editor of *La Voix Acadienne*, the only French-language newspaper on Prince Edward Island. She has been with the paper since 1978 and continues to work to develop the publication that serves the Acadian and Francophone community of PEI. Among her community and volunteer activities, Marcia is vice-president of *L'Association de la presse francophone* and is a village councillor for the Wellington Village Municipal Council. Marcia also sits on the Junior Achievement of PEI Board as a selection committee member. Marcia remains very interested in Actions Femmes, the francophone organization that represents views and works closely with the Acadian and francophone women on the Island and acts as a liaison between this group and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Marcia is a single mother of one daughter and lives in Wellington.

Mari Basiletti, Canoe Cove — Member

Council term: January 22, 2013, to January 22, 2016

Mari obtained a BFA in Fine Arts from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 1969, and a Diploma in Occupational Therapy (OT) from WSU in 1972. She completed a M.Sc. in occupational therapy from Dalhousie University in 2006. During her career as an OT, Mari was employed in acute psychiatry, community mental health, private practice and in long-term care. Mari has worked with children, adolescents, and adult survivors of abuse within her clinical practice, and has been actively involved in PEI groups and agencies that are working together to improve services to women and children and to eliminate violence and abuse in our communities. Mari loves to paint in oils and watercolors and often portrays the strength and spirit of women through her art. She retired in 2012 from her position as supervisor of Rehabilitation Services at Hillsborough Hospital in Charlottetown after almost 40 years of occupational therapy practice. Mari resides in Canoe Cove with her partner, JoDee, and has two sons and two grandchildren. She is a member of the local Women's Institute and the Canoe Cove Community Association.

Eileen Brown, West Cape — Member

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Eileen Brown worked in the banking business prior to 21 years' employment with the Workers Compensation Board of PEI. She retired from the Board in January 2011 and now serves as Administrator of the O'Leary Potato Blossom Festival and a Board Member on the O'Leary Community Hospital Foundation and OCH CARES fundraising committee. Eileen remains actively involved in her community, including volunteering for the Canadian Cancer Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Allied Youth, Meals on Wheels and Community Schools. She is also an active union member, having served on numerous UPSE Committees representing women's equality and education concerns. She is currently the Director of Local 19 UPSE Retirees, a Board Member of UPSE, and on the National Union Action on Retiree Concerns (NUARC) Committee.

Louise MacLeod, Uigg — Member

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Louise MacLeod worked many years as a nurse and nurse supervisor, a case worker with Protestant Family Services Bureau, and a teacher in adult education. These experiences made her very aware of the many challenges women face. She has been an active volunteer with Women's Institute, United Church Women, PEI Volunteers for Literacy, 4-H, and other organizations. She has served on boards for Human Resources Development Canada appeals, Orwell Corner Historic Village, and the Sir Andrew Macphail Homestead. She and her husband Arnold raised a son, a daughter, and a foster daughter and have always been involved in the care of family and neighbours.

Melissa Mullen, Lewes — Member

Council term: January 22, 2013, to January 22, 2016

Melissa Mullen is a farmer, actor, and playwright. In her community she volunteers for the Macphail Foundation Farmers Helping Farmers school twinning, and organizes recreational activities in a seniors' home. Her commitments have also included teaching literacy workshops for parents of young children, and leading theatre workshops for adults and children. Melissa has served on the boards of the P.E.I. Certified Organic Producers' Co-op and TheatrePEI. Currently, she is a founding member of Beyond the Bridge Theatre, a women-centred theatre company which produces Canadian plays with challenging roles for women. She is also a member of the Homestead Players, bringing Island history to the stage. Melissa lives in Lewes with her husband Rob and two daughters, Sophie and Alena.

Catherine Rankin, Summerside — Member

Council term: July 26, 2011, to July 26, 2014

Catherine Rankin was born and raised in Summerside, PEI. She graduated from Athena Regional High School and completed one year of Business Administration at Holland College. Catherine retired in 2009 after a successful, 33-year career in the hospitality industry. She is a past member of the Charlottetown Royalty Rotary Club and the Summerside Rotary Club, past board member and Committee Chair of the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce, past Executive Board Member of Meetings PEI, and member of the Business Administration Advisory Committee, Holland College. She now lives back in her hometown of Summerside.

Patti Wheatley, Charlottetown — Member

Council term: January 22, 2013, to January 22, 2016

Patti Wheatley holds a Bachelor of Arts from St. Thomas University where she studied Human Rights and Sociology, and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New Brunswick. She has a demonstrated interest in women's issues and has worked with a variety of organizations, from small women's groups to the United Nations. Her areas of research and interest include women's health, human rights, and non-traditional women's work. Patti also continues to be involved with organizations focused on HIV/AIDS. Patti lives in Charlottetown and practices law at Stewart McKelvey, with a focus on labour/employment and litigation.

Advisory Council Staff

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time permanent staff members in 2013–2014.

Jane Ledwell — Executive Director

Jane was hired in June 2004 as a researcher and policy analyst. She was hired as Executive Director in September 2012 and works full-time.

Becky Tramley — Office Manager

Becky joined Council staff in October 1986 and works part-time.

Michelle Jay — Program Coordinator

Michelle was hired as Program Coordinator in September 2012 and works full-time.

Staff Development, 2013–2014:

- The staff and chairperson continue to have a regularly scheduled weekly meeting. Among other activities, during meetings staff and chairperson screened several documentaries, including *Innocence Lost*, a video about youth addictions in PEI (May 14), and *Miss Representation*, a documentary on women in leadership (June 13).
- Training opportunities included team training on design software and social media, continued team work on interest-based processes for strategic planning and priority setting, practice with event photography, and work on developing respectful relationships with Aboriginal women.
- Individual staff pursued training opportunities on GBA+ and other topics of relevance.
- Training opportunities were shared when possible with staff from the Community Legal Information Association and PEI Coalition for Women in Government and were also used to build relationships with the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI.

National Coalition of Advisory Councils

The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy. The PEI Advisory Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's Advisory Councils from other regions of Canada.

List of Major Coalition Activities, 2013–2014:

- The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils met on September 26 and 27, 2013, in Whitehorse, Yukon. The yearly meeting allows for discussion of the issues specific to the geographic areas along with discussing national concerns. The following are highlights of some of the issues discussed:
    - Women in leadership
    - Human trafficking
    - RCMP: expired rape kits
    - PEI: no local abortion services
    - Murdered and missing Aboriginal women
    - Sexual violence and bullying
    - Services and supports for sex trade workers
    - Federal government blocking United Nations motion on sexual violence against women

Coalition of Provincial & Territorial Advisory Councils on the **Status of Women**

- The Coalition will act on these issues by sharing information and writing letters to government as well as open letters to the general public. The National Coalition of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women will meet in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island,next September which will allow members to attend PEI 2014 events taking place at that time. The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women looks forward to hosting this Coalition Meeting in 2014.
- We are grateful for the help and support of Coalition colleagues in promoting the Bold Vision project and encouraging nominations and participation from their provinces and territories.

Some members of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues and the National Coalition of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women in Whitehorse, September 2013.

Advice to Government: Policy & Research

Equality Report Card

Since its inception, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has made recommendations to government for changes in policy and legislation to benefit the lives of Island women, girls, and their families. They have shared recommendations with government through the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and other officials in policy guides, correspondence, briefings, submissions, and meetings, both independently and in partnership with other equality-seeking organizations.

The first Equality Report Card assesses the PEI government's progress towards implementing recommendations related to women's equality. Council released a pilot Report Card in 2008. In June 2009 and June 2011, Council followed up with its second and third Equality Report Cards, based on a refined process. In June 2012, the Council renewed the model and released priority action areas and criteria for assessment for the 2013 Equality Report Card.

The Council develops the Report Card in collaboration with government and the community.

2013 Equality Report Card:

- Using surveys, workshop meetings, and email as consultation tools, Council reviewed evidence from government, set draft grades, and determined supporting analysis to create a draft report.
- Two focus groups for the Report Card took place in the spring: one with past Council Chairpersons and one with a group made up primarily of Mi'kmaw and First Nations parents. Consultation also included participants in a presentation about the Report Card at a health equity workshop. Results from these focus groups were added to results of a March focus group with diverse Francophone women.
- Council and staff validated the draft through government and community consultation.
- On June 26, the Council released the *2013 Equality Report Card / Fiche de rendement sur l'egalite des femmes 2013* at a public news conference during a Council meeting at the Cornwall Town Hall, Cornwall. The news conference was covered by CBC Radio and TV, *The Guardian*, and *La Voix Acadienne*.
- The Advisory Council Report Card awarded the PEI government a grade of "**C**" for its progress so far in this mandate of government (elected 2011) in addressing the equality goals of women and under-represented groups on the Island. Chairperson Diane Kays noted, "The C grade in 2013 shows that although government is taking some important and concrete steps to meet needs that women and vulnerable citizens have identified, much more needs to be done."
- The 2013 Equality Report Card will be used as a benchmark for the next Report Card in 2015.

Other Research & Policy Work

Whenever possible, the Advisory Council submits briefs to public consultations on issues of concern to women and families. Council's submissions build on past policy recommendations to government. They are developed in consultation with Council members and often include consultation with community members or organizations.

Marcia Enman, in a still from a video featuring Council members' comments on prescription drug addiction.

Highlights of Other Research & Policy Work, 2013–2014:

- **Submission to the Public Dialogue on Prescription Drug Addictions**, Standing Committee on Health, Social Development, and Seniors (October 21, 2013). Text and links to a video with Council members' comments both available here: http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw/index.php3?number=1049071&lang=E
- **Submission to the Atlantic Premiers' Panel on Employment Insurance Changes** (January 20, 2014). Presented by Jane Ledwell and Michelle Jay. Text available here: http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw/index.php3?number=1050305&lang=E
- **Presentation on Family Violence Prevention**, Standing Committee on Health, Social Development and Seniors (March 12, 2014). Presented by Jane Ledwell and Michelle Jay. Text and slides available here: http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw/fvp-presentation-march-12

Public Information & Education

Inquiries & Referrals

The Advisory Council responds to inquiries from individuals, groups, and government. These range from requests for information to crisis calls and requests for advocacy. People make inquiries in person or by telephone, e-mail, or correspondence. Inquiries are often complex and often come from women who have unsuccessfully tried to get service elsewhere.

The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women. We offer support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual inquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.

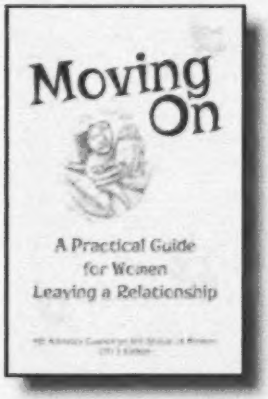
About Inquiries, 2013–2014:

- **Relationship break-ups:** Requests for the Council publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* continued to be frequent. Relationship break-ups are vulnerable times for women, with effects on their physical, emotional, and financial safety and security. This year, they reported challenges in accessing social assistance, legal aid, maintenance enforcement, and child custody arrangements, among others.
- **PEI issues:** Inquiries related to concerns about provincial government laws, policies, or programs. Inquiries covered a gamut of topics, however multiple calls were received about the complex challenges of: women's mental health and addictions, violence in relationships and

associated issues, requests for assistance accessing abortion services, care and concern for children, and the need for access to basic income/livable income. Also prevalent were inquiries related to women's health generally – food security, oncology support, healthy eating, and nursing home care – and justice-related issues. This year, there were a number of requests for service related to sexual harassment in the workplace.

- **General inquiries:** Diverse inquiries included positive comments about gender analysis of public service pensions, concerns about sexist advertising and workplace safety, a request to continue anti-bullying and violence prevention, a request for resources on municipal government and leadership, and a human trafficking concern. Underlying the multiple challenges women face is the often-present additional burden of poverty and subsequent lack of access to resources.
- **Referrals:** Referrals were frequently made to the PEI Lawyer Referral Service: the majority of women who call the Advisory Council need to consult a lawyer and do not have the resources to do so. Referrals are sometimes made to the PEI Human Rights Commission or to IRAC. Referrals are made to Family Violence Prevention Services and the Rape and Sexual Assault Centre in cases where violence or sexual abuse/assault occur. Some referrals respond to requests for information. They are made to organizations such as the PEI Business Women's Association, Community Legal Information Association, Interministerial Women's Secretariat, PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, Family Resource Centres, and the Abortion Rights Network.

Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship



In 2013–2014, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women issued a new, updated edition of *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship*. The guide is the PEIACSW's most-requested resource. In print for more than a dozen years with updates every few years, this booklet has helped hundreds of people.

Council Vice-Chairperson Kelly Robinson, an expert on public legal education with the Community Legal Information Association, drafted updates to the guide in 2013. For the first time, *Moving On* includes sections for Aboriginal women and for newcomers to Canada and has tips for Internet privacy and safety. Like past editions, this new version of *Moving On* features original drawings by artist Karen Gallant.

Also new to this edition is a French version of the guide, entitled *Aller de l'avant : Guide pratique à l'intention des femmes qui décident de mettre fin à une relation*.

Copies of *Moving On/Aller de l'avant* are free of charge and are available as PDF downloads from the ACSW website. Printing partners Kwik Kopy donated additional copies of the guide at no cost, and while supplies last, hard copies are available by request.

Media

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to requests for comment on issues that affect women and families.

Ordinarily, approved spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Executive Director, and the Program Coordinator.

News Releases, 2013–2014:

- Government Earns a C on 2013 Equality Report Card/Le gouvernement obtient un C sur la Fiche de rendement sur l'egalite 2013 (June 26)
- Ask: Purple Ribbon Campaign Urges Discussion about Consent/Demandez : La Campagne du ruban violet vous encourage à discuter de la notion de consentement (November 25)
- Popular Booklet in a New Edition/Lancement d'une nouvelle édition d'un livret populaire (Jan 9)
- International Women's Day 2014 Events (March 3)

Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2013–2014:

- Congratulations to Charlottetown on New Code of Conduct (May 6)
- Verbal Abuse Prevention Week in PEI (October 5)
- Healthy Sexual Behaviour in Children (November 18)
- Remember, Reflect, Work for Change/Recueillons-nous et incitons le changement (December 6)
- Addressing Poverty on PEI / Combattre la pauvreté à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard (December 20 – *for the Working Group for a Livable Income*)
- Open Letter to all Canadians/Lettre ouverte à tous les Canadiens (February 15 – *from the National Coalition of Advisory Councils*)
- Inspiring Change/Inspirer le changement (March 6)

Interview Requests, 2013–2014:

- **CBC Radio:** Report Card, *Island Morning* (June 25); child support and poverty (August 7, aired September 4); gender analysis and pension changes, *Island Morning* (October 29); FVP Week infographic, *Island Morning* (February 7); basic income, *Main Street* (December 24); International Women's Day, *Island Morning* (March 5).
- **CBC Television**: Equality Report Card, *Compass* (June 26)
- **Radio-Canada, Le Réveil:** Report Card (June 26); reproductive rights (June 26); basic income guarantee (August 14); child support and maintenance enforcement (September 9); gender analysis and pension changes (October 29); Purple Ribbon Campaign and Montreal Massacre Memorial (December 5)
- **Ocean100:** Equality Report Card (June 26)
- **Charlottetown *Guardian*:** health equity/Report Card (April 9); Equality Report Card (June 26)
- **Summerside *Journal-Pioneer*:** gender and cybersafety (April 3)
- **Holland College *Surveyor***: EI changes (November 8); Mayor's Task Force video (November 26)

News Conferences, 2013–2014:

- Release of 2013 Equality Report Card (June 26)
- Launch of Charlottetown Mayor's Purple Ribbon Task Force video, "Talk About It" (November 28 – *ED as co-emcee*)
- Response to Changes in EI Zones, Coalition for Fair EI (February 21 – *ED as a speaker*)

New Media & Social Media

Advisory Council on the Status of Women staff members independently manage content of the Advisory Council's official website at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw. Whenever possible, news releases and publications are made available on-line at the website as they are released.

The Advisory Council also uses social media to educate and engage. The Council has maintained a blog since September 2007, and began producing videos in-house in September 2011. A presence on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter started in March 2012.

Wordpress Blog, 2013–2014, at http://peiacsw.wordpress.com:

- People made over **12,000** visits to the blog – an average of **1,000** visits a month.
- The top individual post by far continues to be "Abortion Access Info – PEI," visited about **670** times this year. It was followed this year by the infographic created for Family Violence Prevention Week and promos for the Sex Health and Gender Expo.
- People click through most often to our newsletters, then to Twitter, gov.pe.ca, and, this year, aboldvision.ca. Top referring sites are search engines, Facebook, gov.pe.ca, newsletters, and Twitter.

Twitter, 2013–2014, @peiacsw:

- At March 31, about **750** tweets had been posted in the previous year. We had about **875** Twitter followers, a gain of more than **400**, and we were following **770**.
- Highlights included promos of A Bold Vision, RTs of our newsletter, live tweeting from workshops or events, Family Violence Prevention Week promos, and engaging conversations about the issues of the day.

Facebook, 2013–2014, at http://facebook.com/peistatusofwomen:

- At March 31, the Facebook page had about **285** "likes," an increase of about **120**.
- Top posts for the year (more than 300): the death of Rehtaeh Parsons; A Bold Vision announcement; Sexual and Gender Health Expo; misogynous Frosh Week activities across Canada; commentary appreciating survivors; Person's Day October 18; lack of access to abortion services; missing and murdered Indigenous women; purple ribbon pinning bee; gender equality endorsement in PEI Legislature; purple ribbon theme/ multilingual posters; prescription drug addiction; a Parents Guide to Sexual Behavior in Children; and the December 6th Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.
- Photos of local women/girls continue to generate interest. Social commentaries on identity and health, especially by celebrities, also ranked high.

Videos, 2013–2014, at http://vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen:

- *2013 Equality Report Card - Overall Assessment* (June 2013) http://vimeo.com/80334715
- *Prescription Drug Addiction in PEI* (October 2013) http://vimeo.com/77695196
- *2013 Equality Report Card - Kudos* (November 2013) http://vimeo.com/80334715
- *Consent is...* (November 2013) http://vimeo.com/80519120
- *Ethical Empowered Erotics and the Politics of Radical Consent* (December 2013) http://vimeo.com/81599542
- These videos were viewed over **300** times. The most popular was "Consent is..." which was created for the Purple Ribbon Campaign. Older videos by the Advisory Council continued to receive views as well, particularly *"Her Name Was Eleanor..."*

Newsletters & Activities Updates

Council maintains two mailing lists: one for traditional mailings and the other for electronic mailings. Members of the traditional mailing list numbered over 700 by the end of the fiscal year. They receive Activities Updates and special Council publications and promotions.

Subscribers to the weekly e-newsletter receive submitted listings of community events and notices. These notices are also available to the general public via weekly links on the Status of Women's blog: peiacsw.wordpress.com.

E-Newsletter, 2013–2014:

- Our E-Newsletter with community events and notices about upcoming events, activities, or items of interest for women in the community is sent directly to our subscriber list usually every Thursday and is also available at a link from our blog at peiacsw.wordpress.com.
- More than 200 people subscribe to the e-news, an increase of more than 50 over last year.
- Subscriptions are welcome at http://eepurl.com/rQH6P.

Activities Updates, 2013–2014:

- *Activities Update*, Fall/Winter 2013

Mailouts, 2013–2014:

- Equality Report Card (August 2013)
- Purple Ribbon Campaign Materials (November 2013)

Collaboration with Community & Government

Meetings & Correspondence on Issues

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council. Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence.

Meetings with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, 2013–2014:

- Council Chairperson Diane Kays meets with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Valerie Docherty, regularly. Meetings are supported by a memorandum outlining issues. The PEIACSW Executive Director and Program Coordinator regularly participate in the meetings, as does the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
    - **June 21, 2013:** Topics included the 2013 Equality Report Card, the Federal/Provincial/Territorial officials' meeting, PEI 2014 projects and events, and verbal abuse prevention.
    - **February 13, 2014:** Topics included Council appointments, *Moving On/Aller de l'avant*, the Purple Ribbon Campaign, and Family Violence Prevention Week.
- The Minister Responsible and the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat twice planned to take part in a consultation with the full Advisory Council; unfortunately, the scheduled and rescheduled meetings were both stormed out.

Other Selected Meetings, 2013–2014:

- Phone, e-mail, and in-person consultations with the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (July 23 and ongoing)
- Consultations with Senator Catherine Callbeck and her office (June 13 and ongoing)
- Meetings with Department of Education Curriculum Specialists (July 25, October 3)
- Consultations with Status of Women Canada representatives (August 13, November 5)
- Meeting to consider a guide to sexual and reproductive health (February 26)
- Dialogue about countering rape culture (May 3)
- Consultation with a volunteer organizer with Fair Vote Canada (January 16)
- Meeting with the new interim Director of Social Assistance (January 27)
- Meeting with East Prince Women's Information Centre Director Andy Lou Somers (October 2)

Andy Lou Somers from East Prince Women's Information Centre (EPWIC) in Summerside, with Jane and Diane in discussion.

Selected Correspondence, 2013–2014:

- Letters to Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and Minister of Health and Wellness re. abortion access (July 10)
- Letter to the federal government calling for a National Inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women (October 4)
- Letter to Minister Responsible for the Status of Women re gender analysis on pension changes (November 27)
- Letter to Health Minister to request meeting with Abortion Rights Network (March 4)
- Letters of recommendation for PEI nominees for Muriel McQueen Fergusson Awards (March 13)
- Nominations of Island women for A Bold Vision project (for January 24)
- Letters of support for organizations making applications for equality projects (ongoing)

Advisory Council staff had a great visit with Nicole Bujold, the Atlantic Regional Director for Status of Women Canada.

Community Consultations

The Advisory Council staff, Chairperson and Council members consult with many individuals, organizations, and sectors on a variety of issues related to the status of women on PEI.

Community Consultations, 2013–2014:

- Chairperson's consultations were held in August with Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, Family Violence Prevention Services, Family Violence Prevention Services, and the Aboriginal Women's Association. The Chairperson also met with Canoe Cove Women's Institute, April 8.
- The Executive Director regularly joined in re consultations with other staff, as well as meeting with: East Prince Seniors' Initiative Grandparents Group in Summerside; Council for People with Disabilities; Director of Income Support; past Chairperson Isabelle Christian; Women's Network PEI; and participants at the Atlantic Summer Institute's Health Equity Forum.
- Purple Ribbon Campaign 2013-14 - The Program Coordinator consulted about the theme of consent with: Women's Network PEI; Family Violence Prevention Services; Premier's Action Committee Coordinator; Action Femme; Aboriginal Women's Association; and the Department of Education Curriculum Specialist.
- The Equality Report Card process involves consulting extensively with members of Council, with specific focus groups, and with diverse organizations in verifying the draft of the report card.
- Council meetings provided opportunities for focused consideration of the Purple Ribbon Campaign, East Prince Women's Information Centre, and addictions & mental health issues.

Chairs Circle Consultation

In 2013, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women held its second annual roundtable of past and present Chairpersons of the Advisory Council. The current and past Chairs participated in discussions on the themes highlighted in the Equality Report Card.

Through facilitated discussion, they reflected on ACSW challenges and achievements in key areas in the past three decades. The Chairs Circle was an opportunity to share collective knowledge and experience among long-time women's equality advocates.

Chairs Circle, 2013:

- The 2013 Chairs Circle took place on April 22, 2013, in Charlottetown. The current Chairperson and seven past Chairpersons took part.
- The 2013 Chairs Circle served as a focus group for the 2013 Equality Report Card. The Chairs talked about justice, poverty, violence, health, and more. Many of the Chairs' ideas and insights are included in the final Report Card, with gratitude.

Chairs Circle 2013 participants. Back row: Isabelle Christian, Diane Kays, and Dolores Crane. Front row: Anne Nicholson, Dianne Porter, Eileen Brown, Barb Currie, and Kirstin Lund.

Special Event: Sexuality Gender Health Expo

An Expo was organized by the Abortion Rights Network (ARN) to fill a void in women's health information around sexuality and gender concerns, and to continue advocacy for access to abortion care for Island women. The event took place at the Murphy's Community Centre in Charlottetown on October 26, with side events on October 25.

- "Difficult Dialogues," a panel organized by UPEI to discuss the experiences of trans* youth on PEI, with the evening finishing off with a "Hello, Gorgeous," a drag show onstage at The Guild.
- Information displays from community organizations, including the ACSW's purple ribbon campaign about consent.
- Four workshops covering the topics of enthusiastic consent, sex education in Island schools, empowering menarche experiences, and safer sex practices, and a writing workshop called "Delta of Venus."
- "Abortion Access Maze" – an experiential, artistic installation of research findings of the impact of the barriers to abortion access in PEI.
- The launch of *Speak Out*, a 'zine chapbook of PEI women's abortion experiences and special recognition and appreciation for Dr. Colleen MacQuarrie's "Understanding for a Change" research.
- *Trans: The Movie* film screening and discussion on transgender issues.

Community Events

The Advisory Council staff, Chairperson and Council members continue to consult informally with a variety of individuals, organizations, and sectors. The Executive Director and Program Coordinator played a role in a number of presentations to the community, and the Chairperson undertook consultations with allied service providers while distributing ribbons and bookmarks for the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence.

Community Events, 2013–2014:

- Community Workshop on Guaranteed Annual Income (April 2)
- EPWIC's Internet Safety for Service Providers workshop (April 3)
- Guaranteed Annual Income: A Good Fit for PEI presentation (April 3)
- Lands Protection Act Commission hearing (April 8)
- In-Focus Forum on Building Inclusive Community for Women and Men with Disabilities (April 11)
- Vigil for Rehtaeh Parsons (April 13)
- Women's Network PEI Paths to Prosperity Community Response to Poverty (April 24)
- Sharing Leadership Experiences: Creating a Dialogue among Women and Girls (April 29)
- Service Providers Forum: Newcomers and Family Violence (April 30)
- Understanding for a Change research consultation (May 1)
- PEI Business Women community consultation (May 16)
- NDP PEI Forum on Youth Addictions (May 21)
- PEI 2014 announcement of funding, Queen's County major projects (May 28)

Community Events, continued

- Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network meet and greet (May 31)
- PEI 2014 announcement of funding, central PEI small projects (June 14)
- Minister Responsible for the Status of Women's reception for federal/provincial/territorial officials (June 17)
- Workshop for Government of PEI web strategy (July 17)
- Public Transit Coalition strategic planning (June 20)
- PEI Literacy Alliance AGM (September 10)
- Household Food Security in PEI presentation (September 24)
- Women's Network PEI Paths to Prosperity presentation (September 25)
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil (October 4 – *Chair as a speaker*)
- National Youth Cyberbullying webcast (October 7)
- Aboriginal Justice Forum (October 18)
- Sexuality Gender Health Expo (October 26 – *as partners and co-organizers*)
- Coalition for Fair EI "Have Your Say" Forum (October 28, Rustico – *ED as coordinator*)
- Launch of A Bold Vision (November 15 – *as project partners*)
- Housing First Forum (November 21)
- Actions Femmes Congrès femmes (November 26 – *ED facilitated an activity*)
- Girls Action Foundation/Atlantic Summer Institute Girls' Career Day, Colonel Gray High School (November 26 – *ED as panel moderator*)

- Purple RIbbon Campaign theme "Consent" presented to Mi'kmaq parents (December 10)
- Seasonal open houses: Association for Newcomers, Women's Institute, CLIA, VRC (Dec. 3–13)
- PEI Women in Government Levee (January 8)
- Gender Perspective on EI Changes, Atlantic Premiers' Panel (January 20)
- Research release for "Understanding for a Change" project (January 28 – *ED as moderator*)
- PEI Food Security Network CSA Workshop (February 5 – *ED as co-organizer*)
- Charlottetown Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence (February 12)
- Screening of Tough Guise: Violence, Manhood, and American Culture (February 12)
- One Billion Rising FVPW activity (February 14)
- The Honour Diaries film, Canadian Women for Afghani Women (March 5)
- International Women's Day art show opening (March 7)
- International Women's Day events (March 8 – *see page 49*)
- Right to Food workshop, Food Security Network (March 11)
- Presentation/submission to Standing Committee on Health and Social Development on Family Violence Prevention (March 12)
- "Our Reality" Paths to Prosperity photo exhibit (March 20)

Diane with Judy Clark, President of the Aboriginal Women's Association, at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil, October 2013.

Partnerships

The Advisory Council is committed to participating in the work of relevant coalitions, task forces, research projects, or other community-led activities. Council contributes in-kind work and expertise in gender-based analysis to our partner groups. Council members gain access to research, new perspectives, follow-up on advocacy, and more.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2013–2014:

- **A Bold Vision 2014 Steering Committee:** The Advisory Council is a partner in and Council's ED sits on this committee to plan the PEI 2014–supported women's leadership project. *A Bold Vision* will feature an anthology and conference with women leaders imagining Canada's future. Other project partners are Women's Network PEI, PEI Coalition for Women in Government, PEI Business Women's Association, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.

  ACSW Role: Attending meetings, project planning and promotions.
- **Abortion Rights Network:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator sit on this committee, which came together to advocate for equitable abortion services and to ensure women have accurate and neutral information about where and how to access abortion services. Council's ED additionally sits on the research advisory committee for "Understanding for a Change," Dr. Colleen MacQuarrie's reproductive justice research at UPEI.

  ACSW Role: Attending meetings, examining provincial policies; assisting with communication strategies; participating in events and projects.
- **Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities:** The Advisory Council is a partner in and Council's ED serves on the advisory committee for a project to develop young and emerging

female leaders: "Building Leadership Capacity Among Women and Girls in Atlantic Canada."

ACSW role: Attending meetings; advising on content for programming and events; contributing gender-based analysis; attending events.

- **Community Legal Information Association (CLIA):** The Council worked collaboratively with CLIA on several special projects of mutual interest related to access to justice.

  ACSW Role: Co-presenting resources at the PEI Teachers Federation annual convention; research assistance from CLIA towards the *Moving On* resource booklet.

- **International Women's Day Committee:** Council's Program Coordinator brought together and led this diverse, active committee to plan and present events for International Women's Day.

  ACSW role: Coordinating committee and IWD planning.

- **IWS Grant Adjudication Committee:** Council's ED sits on this committee to review applications and advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on community grants, awarded by the Province where the organizations, principles, objectives, and activities of applicants support the legal, health, social, and economic equality of women.

  ACSW role: Adjudicating applications and reviewing related communications.

- **Justice Options for Women:** The Council's Program Coordinator serves on the advisory committee for this project. Justice Options creates opportunities for community dialogue and input into justice policy regarding the issues of violence against women and the impact on and of restorative justice. This is a necessary next step in encouraging and developing safe and effective responses to violence against women in PEI. Justice Options developed Circles of Safety and

Support for women at high risk of violence and is currently working on a project on rural and immigrant women and girls.

ACSW role: Participating in meetings to set directions and develop project plans and funding applications; participating in the working group for immigrant women; reviewing products and publications; supporting Circles of Safety and Support.

- **Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED sits on this task force which works with the community on family violence prevention initiatives funded by the City of Charlottetown, under the banner "Peace Begins at Home" and incorporating the purple ribbon symbol.

  ACSW role: Consulting, planning, and assisting with projects and public events, including a youth video project on healthy relationships.

- **PAC: Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED is appointed by the Premier to sit on this committee and its Administrative Group. PAC's mandate includes coordinating implementation of the provincial Family Violence Prevention Strategy. The ED also serves on the Social Marketing Working Group and the Program Coordinator serves on the Youth Engagement Working Group.

  ACSW role: Attending full group, administrative, and working group meetings; assisting with direction for the five-year strategy; reviewing documents; advocating for a focus on violence against women and other gender and equality roots of violence; participating in projects, publications, and events.

- **Paths to Prosperity Advisory Committee:** The Council's ED is a member of the advisory committee for this Women's Network PEI–led project to develop a community response to poverty in Prince Edward Island.
  ACSW role: Attending advisory committee meetings, advising on draft publications, and participating in projects and events.
- **PEI Coalition for Fair EI:** This ad hoc committee came together in 2012 to counter changes to the federal Employment Insurance system. Council's Program Coordinator and ED have both collaborated with this Coalition of women's, labour, and social justice organizations.
  ACSW role: Contributing to plans for strategy, communications, and recommendations to government; offering gender analysis; participating in projects and events such as town halls, rallies, and activist guides.
- **PEI Coalition for Women in Government:** Council's ED sits as a non-partisan member on this multi-partisan coalition that works to increase the number and proportion of women in elected positions in PEI.
  ACSW role: Helping to develop and execute workplans; leading events and workshops on women in media; contributing to creating and disseminating research, media work, and publications; participating in meetings and events.
- **PEI Food Security Network:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator participate in working groups for this action and education network to improve Islanders' food security (access to adequate affordable, healthy, culturally appropriate and personally acceptable food within a food system

that supports producers).

ACSW role: Participating in meetings, workshops, and events; contributing gender analysis; taking part in evaluations; serving on working groups; assisting with developing briefs, presentations, and reports as needed.

- **PEI Public Transit Coalition:** Council's Program Coordinator serves on the steering committee of this coalition to advocate for Island-wide public transit.

  ACSW role: Attending steering committee meetings; providing input on gender and social equity in transit issues; promoting public transit.
- **PEI Working Group for a Livable Income:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator serve on this coalition of a dozen community organizations that are active in working to eliminate poverty and advocate for a livable income for all Islanders to live in good health and with dignity.

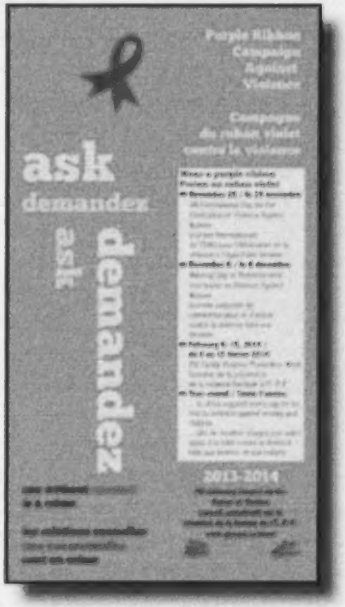
  ACSW role: Participating in meetings and special events; developing recommendations to government on poverty elimination; contributing perspectives on women's poverty; taking minutes for meetings; taking our turn with other organizations to draft publications, correspondence, media releases, and briefs to government.
- **Victim Services Advisory Committee**: The Council's Chairperson represents the Council on this committee. The Advisory Committee's purpose is to exchange information on current and emerging issues related to victims and to help develop policy, programs, services, and legislation and report to the Attorney General and government officials on the needs of victims of crime.

  ACSW role: Sharing information, especially from a gender perspective; identifying and bringing issues to the table for discussion.

Leadership in Annual Events

Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves volunteers Island-wide in an effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with facts and statistics about family violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. The Advisory Council also organizes and participates in the annual noontime December 6 Memorial Service in Charlottetown.



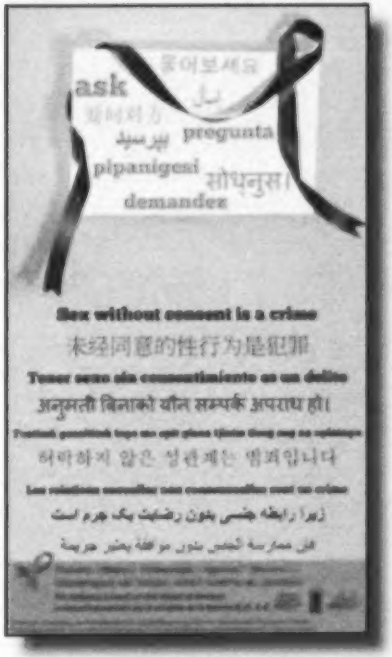
Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2013–2014:

Theme: ASK. Sex without consent is a crime.

Purple Ribbon Teachers' Guide: This year's bilingual guide for junior high school teachers included curriculum connections for Grade 7 Social Studies and Grade 9 Health and resources on preventing violence against women. Handouts in English and in French included background on the Purple Ribbon Campaign, multilingual poster (featuring nine traditional and common-usage languages in PEI); "20 Ways You Can Help End Violence"; "Consent Is..." anti-violence strategies; and online resources for teachers.

Campaign Highlights, 2013–2014:

- Collaboration with PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada to translate the purple ribbon theme *Ask: Sex without consent is a crime* into nine (9) languages.
- The Campaign was profiled at the PEI Teachers' Convention in October.
- A popular public pinning bee took place at Beanz, November 14.
- The Purple Ribbon Campaign was officially launched on the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25, 2013.
- Distribution of more than 17,000 bilingual bookmarks and ribbons; 155 Teachers' Guides resource packages; almost 5,000 purple ribbon temporary tattoos.
- Financial and in-kind contributors to the Purple Ribbon Campaign included the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Premier Robert Ghiz's office, the City of Charlottetown, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
- Special efforts to contribute volunteer time and support to the 2013–14 Campaign came from the Federated Women's Institutes, Quilting B & More, Beanz Espresso Bar and Cafe, and Canada World Youth – Indonesia participants.



December 6 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, 2013:

- The PEIACSW organized the Charlottetown Memorial Service held on December 6, in Memorial Hall at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. All Advisory Council members took part in the service. More than 200 people attended the Charlottetown noontime service.
- Guest speaker, UPEI psychology professor Dr. Colleen MacQuarrie, gave a powerful and positive speech on consent, "Ethical Empowered Erotics and the Politics of Radical Consent." A transcript and video are available here: http://peiacsw.wordpress.com/2013/12/11/dec-6-2013-speech/
- Candle-lighters included Premier Robert Ghiz, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty, RCMP, City Police, and representatives from women's and equality-seeking groups in the community.
- The service included silhouettes of murdered PEI women from the UPSE Silent Witnesses Initiative, coordinated by Pam MacKinnon.
- Special contributions to the service included a traditional Scottish lament performed by Hannah Rollwage, piano music by Dr. David Morrison, and candle-lighting by family members of murdered PEI women.

Nicholas McMurrer and Judy Crossman light a candle in remembrance of Carrie Ellen Crossman, their mother and sister, at the December 6th Memorial Service.

Family Violence Prevention Week, February 9–15, 2014

- ACSW staff work closely with the Premier's Action Committee throughout the year, and particularly during FVPW, to share resources and maximize impact.
- In the new calendar year, purple ribbons and informational bookmarks continued to be requested. Over 3,000 additional bookmarks and ribbons, 2,000 purple ribbon tattoos, and hundreds of posters and handouts were distributed leading up to and during FVPW.
- Council Chairperson and staff members participated in the Walk in Silence for Victims of Violence and the reception following at City Hall; and participated in One Billion Rising event at UPEI. Several Council members attended events hosted in their geographic communities.

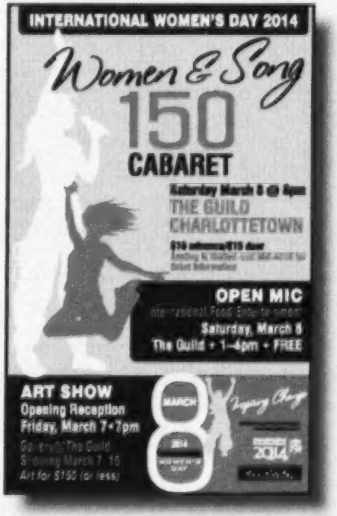
International Women's Day – March 8

United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8th each year. IEvents on International Women's Day and the week leading to it recognize women's ongoing struggle for equity.

The Advisory Council activities balance advocating for equality with celebrating the resilience and achievements of women – globally, nationally, and locally.

International Women's Day Highlights, 2014:

- The Advisory Council and IWD committee organized three stellar events in celebration:
  - Women & Song 150 Cabaret – a sold-out evening featuring ten PEI women singer/songwriters (March 8);
  - an Open Mic afternoon offering international entertainment and food (March 8); and
  - a Women's Art Show and Sale at the Gallery at The Guild (March 7–15). All events were very well-attended and well-received.
- Financial resources secured from PEI 2014 Fund allowed for women performers and food vendors to be paid and supported in a professional venue.
- Performers appreciated the opportunity to showcase their talents as women and to be respectfully renumerated for their efforts.



- On the one common day that is recognized in most of the world to honour and celebrate women, International Women's Day events create a concrete linkage with newcomer women and their families. The Advisory Council also strengthens linkages with newcomers through the staff of PEI ANC, who contribute hours of volunteer time to helping organize activities. IWD activities offer a chance for meaningful and inclusive interaction between new immigrants and the established PEI community.
- We participated in a film showing of *The Honour Diaries* followed by discussion hosted by Canadian Women for Afghani Women (CWAW), March 6.
- The Chairperson's editorial "Inspiring Change/Inspirer le changement " was published in *The Guardian*, March 6.

Lisa-Beth Glassman and Irish Mythen, two of the artists taking part in March 8th IWD celebrations.

Bursaries for Women

Each year, the Advisory Council awards four bursaries for post-secondary education. There is one bursary each to assist students at University of Prince Edward Island, Holland College, and Collège Acadie. The fourth bursary, named for late Council Vice-Chairperson Inge Blackett, supports ongoing studies for a woman who is a recent immigrant to Canada. The deadline to apply for bursaries is October 15 for all four bursaries. The University of Prince Edward Island also administers an internal bursary in our name, awarded to a woman studying Engineering.

Bursary Recipients, 2013:

- **Collège de l'Acadie**: Jennifer Robichaud
- **Holland College**: Jocelyn Fay
- **University of Prince Edward Island**: Not awarded
- **Inge Blackett Memorial Bursary**: Saida Sadat
- **PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Engineering Bursary**: Morgan Ashley Robinson

Publications List

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned above. These publications are usually available in hard copy from the Advisory Council or in electronic copy on its Website at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

- **Orientation to the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women** (April 2013) *An updated bilingual one-pager summarizing the Advisory Council on the Status of Women's mandate.*
- **Equality Report Card / Fiche de rendement sur l'egalite** (June 2013) *The Advisory Council's biennial assessment of government's progress towards selected women's equality goals.*
- **Purple Ribbon Campaign Resource Guide for PEI Teachers / Guide de ressources pour les enseignant(e)s, Campagne du ruban violet contre la violence** (October 2013). *A bilingual, multi-grade guide for teachers, for use with the 2013 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence.*
- **Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship / Aller de l'avant : Guide pratique à l'intention des femmes qui décident de mettre fin à une relation** (December 2013) *A revised, updated, and translated new edition of our most requested resource.*
- **PEI Family Violence Facts / Faits sur la violence familiale** (February 2014). *An infographic to make sense of Prince Edward Island statistics on family violence, for Family Violence Prevention Week 2014.*

Financial Statements

Management's Report

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and the integrity and objectivity of these statements are management's responsibility. Management is responsible for the notes to the financial statements and for ensuring that this information is consistent, where appropriate, with the information contained in the financial statements.

Management is responsible for implementing and maintaining a system of internal control to provide reasonable assurance that reliable financial information is produced.

The Advisory Council members are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control. The Council members review internal financial reports on a regular basis and externally audited financial statements annually.

The Auditor General conducts an independent examination, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and expresses her opinion on the financial statements. The Auditor General has full and free access to financial information and management of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women to meet as required.

On behalf of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Diane Kays
Council Chair

Joe Ledwell
Executive Director

June 11, 2014

Prince Edward Island — Office of the Auditor General

Île-du-Prince-Édouard — Bureau du vérificateur général

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the financial statements of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2014, and the statements of operations and accumulated deficit, changes in net financial assets (debt), and cash flow for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted the audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2014, and the results of its operations, changes in net financial assets (debt), and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

B. Jane MacAdam, CA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
June 11, 2014

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2014

	2014	2013
	$	$
Financial Assets		
Cash	7,656	56,797
Accounts receivable	1,712	472
	9,368	57,269
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 3)	17,483	14,578
Net Financial Assets (Debt)	(8,115)	42,691
Non Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	1,156	1,173
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	(6,959)	43,864

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

Approved on behalf of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women:

Council Chair

Council Member

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Operations and Accumulated Deficit
for the year ended March 31, 2014

	Budget 2014	2014	2013
	$	$	$
Revenues			
Grants - Province of Prince Edward Island (Note 6)	195,000	149,701	246,956
Program revenue (Note 6)	8,500	6,264	1,500
Other	-	110	500
	203,500	156,075	248,956
Expenses			
Administration	16,065	12,040	10,619
Contracts	5,000	4,000	5,380
Council meetings/business	26,675	28,386	25,473
Equipment	300	610	2,246
Materials and supplies	3,220	6,775	10,225
Salaries and benefits	150,016	152,681	135,842
	203,500	204,499	189,975
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	-	(50,823)	58,010
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), beginning of year		43,864	115,146
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), end of year		(6,959)	43,864

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets (Debt)
for the year ended March 31, 2014

	Budget 2014	2014	2013
	$	$	$
Net Financial Assets (Debt), beginning of year	42,591	42,591	(15,797)
Changes in year:			
Annual surplus (deficit)	-	(50,623)	59,010
Change in prepaid expenses	-	17	(522)
Change in Net Financial Assets (Debt)	-	(50,606)	58,488
Net Financial Assets (Debt), end of year	42,591	(8,115)	42,691

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended March 31, 2014

	2014	2013
	$	$
Cash provided (used) by:		
Operating Activities		
Annual surplus (deficit)	(50,623)	59,010
Changes in:		
Accounts receivable	(1,260)	(114)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,965	(8,394)
Prepaid expenses	17	(522)
Cash provided (used) by operating activities	(48,161)	49,980
Cash, beginning of year	56,797	6,817
Cash, end of year	7,636	56,797

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

1. **Purpose of the Organization**

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women is a government appointed provincial advisory agency. The Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, and political spheres of life. The Council is a non-taxable entity under the provisions of the federal *Income Tax Act*.

2. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

a) Cash

Cash consists of balances on deposit at financial institutions.

b) Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities are recorded for all amounts due for work performed and goods or services received during the year.

c) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost provided the threshold of $10,000 is met and are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of five to fifteen years. Tangible capital asset purchases that do not meet the threshold are expensed. No capital assets have been recognized because purchases did not meet the threshold for capitalization. During the year, equipment totalling $810 (2013 - $2,245) was expensed.

d) Revenues

Revenues are recognized in the period in which the transaction or event that gave rise to the revenue occurred. All revenues are recorded on an accrual basis, except when the accruals cannot be determined with a reasonable degree of certainty or when their estimation is impracticable.

Transfers (revenues from non-exchange transactions) are recognized as revenues when the transfer is authorized, any eligibility criteria are met, and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2014

2. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued...)**

e) Expenses

Expenses are recorded on an accrual basis in the period in which the transaction or event that gave rise to the expense occurred.

f) Financial Instruments

Financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and accrued liabilities. Due to their nature, financial instruments are carried at cost or amortized cost, less any provision on accounts receivable, which approximates their fair value.

Since the Council has no material unrealized remeasurement gains or losses attributed to foreign exchange, derivatives, portfolio investments, or other financial instruments, a statement of remeasurement gains and losses has not been prepared.

g) Use of Estimates and Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of the revenues and expenses during the period. Items requiring the use of significant estimates include accrued liabilities and sick leave obligations.

Estimates are based on the best information available at the time of preparation of the financial statements and are reviewed annually to reflect new information as it becomes available. Measurement uncertainty exists in these financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates and the difference could be material.

3. **Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities**

	2014 $	2013 $
Accounts payable	8,021	6,100
Accrued salaries and benefits	3,424	2,873
Accrued vacation and overtime	6,038	5,605
	17,483	14,578

4. **Employee Benefits**

a) **Sick Leave**

Employees of the Council are granted a base amount of 18 days of paid sick leave on April 1 of each fiscal year. Unused sick days may be accumulated to a maximum of 30 days. The use of accumulated sick days for sick leave compensation ceases on termination of employment and there is no obligation to settle these amounts with cash payments. A liability has not been calculated or recognized in these financial statements based on an analysis which indicated the liability was not significant.

b) **Pension Benefits**

Permanent employees of the Council participate in the Province of Prince Edward Island's Civil Service Superannuation Pension Plan which is a multi-employer contributory defined benefit pension plan. The Plan provides a pension on retirement based on two percent of the average salary times the number of years of the pensionable service. The Plan is administered by the Province of Prince Edward Island. The Council's annual portion of contributions to the Plan is paid by the Province and any unfunded liability is the responsibility of the Province and therefore no liability has been recognized in these financial statements.

5. **Contractual Obligation**

A photocopier is leased until October 15, 2015, with annual lease payments of $2,300 plus applicable taxes.

6. **Related Party Transactions**

The Council received the following grants from the Province:

	2014 $	2013 $
Operating Grant	146,200	243,750
Other Grants	3,451	3,235
	149,703	246,985

The Council received a grant of $2,014 (2013 - Nil) from another Crown corporation of the Province of Prince Edward Island which is included with program revenue.

Certain costs incurred by the Province of Prince Edward Island on behalf of the Council are not reflected in these financial statements. These costs include rental of office space, misc. office expenses, and certain employee benefits.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2014

7. **Financial Management**

The Council's risk exposure, as a result of the financial instruments on its statement of financial position at March 31, 2014, is limited to liquidity risk. The Council's financial instruments are not subject to significant market risk or credit risk.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will not be able to meet all its cash outflow obligations as they come due. This risk is mitigated by monitoring the level of financial assets in relation to amounts due and implementing fiscal restraint when necessary.

8. **Budgeted Figures**

Budgeted figures have been provided for comparative purposes and were derived from estimates approved by the Council.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Advisory Council on the Status of
WOMEN

For additional copies of this report:

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
902-368-4510
info@peistatusofwomen.ca
http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw